

Statement

*State-wise list of computerised Post Offices
as on 3.3.1997.*

Name of the State	No. of Post Offices with computerised counters
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	59
Assam	26
Bihar	37
Delhi	63
Gujarat	79
Haryana	21
Himachal Pradesh	30
Jammu & Kashmir	07
Karnataka	69
Kerala	75
Madhya Pradesh	36
Maharashtra	101
North East	10
Orissa	30
Punjab	31
Rajasthan	42
Tamil Nadu	84
Uttar Pradesh	62
West Bengal	23
Total	885

**Introduction of Train between
Kanniyakumari and J&K**

2157. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce an Express train between Kanniyakumari and Jammu and Kashmir via Madurai-Chennai-Delhi-Chandigarh-Ludhiana-Amritsar-Pathankot route;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Introduction of new trains, including on Gauge converted sections, is a continuous process on Indian Railways, subject to the resource availability, operational feasibility and traffic justification.

At present there is no proposal to introduce a direct train between Kanniyakumari and J&K via Madurai-Chennai-Delhi-Chandigarh-Ludhiana-Amritsar-Pathankot route.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Telephone Service

2158. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:
KUMARI UMABHARATI:
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce such telephone service in which the users are visible to each other;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the places where such system likely to be introduced first?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department has recently started providing Integrated Service Digital Network (ISDN) connectivity to general subscribers by using customer owned video conferencing devices on their lines can see each other while talking.

(c) and (d) ISDN service has already been introduced in 11 cities viz. Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Lucknow, Ranchi and Kanpur. It is likely to be introduced in other major cities of the country during the 9th Plan.

**Problems Faced by Foreign Companies In
Mines Sector**

2159. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Foreign Companies are facing for mineral exploration in several States as reported in Pioneer dated December 24, 1996 under the caption, 'Mines exploration firms hit by State apathy';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the remedial steps taken so far in this regard and with results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The grant of mineral concessions is governed by the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development Act, 1957 (MM (R&D) Act, 1957) and the rules made thereunder. The applications for grant of mineral concessions are received and processed by the State Governments. The approval of the Central Government is required only in case of minerals covered under Schedule-I to the MM (R&D) Act, 1957.